

Scholarship Announcement

2012 STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE FOR STUDENT LEADERS PROGRAM

The Public Affairs Section (PAS), U.S. Embassy Vientiane, is seeking candidates for the 2012 Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) for Student Leaders program focused on global environmental issues. First through third year undergraduate students who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement and extracurricular activities and have a good command of English are invited to apply for the program. Up to five scholarships are available for Lao students. **The application deadline is 12:00 Noon, Tuesday, February 21, 2012.**

Program Overview

SUSI for Student Leaders is an intensive academic program whose purpose is to provide groups of undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States, while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. The institute will consist of a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations and lectures. The coursework and classroom activities will be complemented by educational travel to other parts of the United States, local site visits, and volunteer opportunities.

The Study of the U.S. Institute on Global Environmental Issues will explore the role that environmental policy has played in the economic and political development of the United States. The Institute will use experiential learning techniques to expose participants to current themes in the field, including natural resource management, sustainable development/sustainable agricultural practices, food security, ecotourism, energy generation (new and traditional forms), and water management and treatment. The issues will be explored from numerous angles: local grassroots activism and civic initiatives, market-oriented approaches, and federal government policies and regulations. The Institute might also examine the relationship between environmental security and national security. Finally, the Institute will explore environmental issues in the context of a globalized society, and draw comparisons between the United States and the participants' home countries.

All participant costs, including program administration, international and domestic travel and ground transportation, book, cultural, mailing and incidental allowances, housing and subsistence will be covered by the U.S. Department of State.

This SUSI program, offered to 20 student leaders from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, and Vietnam, will take place over the course of five weeks, from approximately July 2 to August 6, 2012 (exact dates will be announced at a later time), including an academic residency component of approximately four weeks and a domestic travel component of approximately one week that will conclude with a 3 day program in Washington, D.C.

Candidate Qualifications

Competition will be based on the potential of the candidates to become student leaders through academic performance, community involvement and extracurricular activities, without regard to their field of study, race, religion, or gender. Competition is open to all applicants who meet the following minimum criteria:

- have a strong interest in the environment
- be fluent in English

- be a first year, second year or third year student;
- be no more than 25 years of age;
- be committed to returning to their home universities following completion of their SUSI program;
- demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university and community activities;
- indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States;
- have a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated in grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- have demonstrated commitment to community and extracurricular activities;
- have had little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of Laos;
- be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive;
- be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and educational travel program; and,
- be comfortable with campus life, prepared to share living accommodations, and able to make adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home country.

How to apply?

Eligible candidates are invited to email complete application forms (attached to the bottom of this document) to the email address vimoldx@state.gov **no later than 12:00 noon, Tuesday, February 21, 2012**. Hard copies of applications should be sent to the following address by the same deadline.

The SUSI for Student Leaders Program
Public Affairs Section
United States Embassy
Rue Bartholonie
P.O. Box 114
Vientiane

No exception will be made regarding the deadline. All communications and questions regarding this FY-2012 Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders on Global Environmental Issues should be addressed to Vimol Dalaloy, telephone: 856-21-267055, email: vimoldx@state.gov

APPLICATION FOR THE 2012 STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE FOR STUDENT LEADERS

A. Full Name (*exactly as it appears on passport*):

- First name(s):
- Middle name(s):
- Surname(s):

B. Date of Birth (*mm/dd/yyyy*)

C. City of Birth

D. Country of Birth

E. Country of Residence

F. Country(ies) of Citizenship

G. Home Address, Telephone and E-mail

H. Gender

I. Medical, Physical, Dietary or other Personal Considerations:

Please state if the candidate has any existing medical conditions or is currently taking any prescription medication. This will not affect candidate selection, but will enable the host institution to make any necessary accommodations.

J. College or University

K. Field of Study

L. Work Experience

M. Education, Academic and Professional Training

N. Active Memberships

O. Special Interests

P. Extracurricular Activities

Q. Previous Experience in the United States:

Please list any and all trips the candidate has made to the United States and include approximate dates and the reason for travel.

R. Family Residing in the United States:

Please list any immediate family members who are currently residing in the United States, including city and state.

S. Evidence of English Fluency (*e.g. paper-based TOEFL or iBT TOEFL scores*)

T. Future study or career plans

U. Personal Statement (*no more than one page*)